SUBJECT: Project Lead the Way Update

In December of 2007, AAC was provided information about Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a national program that is being supported by the South Dakota Department of Education and implemented by a number of schools in South Dakota. PLTW is a national 501 c3, not-for-profit educational program that helps give middle and high school students the rigorous ground-level education they need to develop strong backgrounds in science and engineering. PLTW's curriculum works to make math and science relevant for students.

The PLTW goals are to:

* Increase the number of young people who pursue engineering and engineering technology programs in four- and two-year post-secondary programs.
* Provide equitable and inclusive opportunities for all academically qualified students. Provide clear standards and expectations for student success in the program.
* Reduce the future college attrition rate in four- and two-year engineering and engineering technology programs.
* Provide leadership and support that will produce continuous improvement and innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs.
* Contribute to the continued vitality of the nation’s prosperity.

To date, tracks have been developed in engineering and in biomedical sciences. The engineering curriculum has been implemented in SD.

AAC discussed the award of college credit for students completing the high school courses offered under the umbrella of this Project. According to the PLTW web site, several universities throughout the country do offer college credit for the courses (<http://www.pltw.org/index.cfm>). This appears be quite similar to the approach currently taken with AP courses, DANTES or IB coursework. In these cases, faculty review the curriculum and the assessments and decide what “scores” are needed if credit (not a grade) is to be awarded. It was agreed that staff from SDSU and from Mines would do this and forward recommendations for consideration. These are attached.

AAC has reviewed these and recommends that if the students complete the PLTW courses, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Engineering Design and Development, credit be awarded if the established conditions are met and if the outlined processes are followed.

**South Dakota State University**

**Project Lead The Way: Course Equivalency Credit**

Credit can be received in certain subjects through a variety of nationally recognized examinations including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP and, now, Project Lead The Way.

Once enrolled, students successfully completing Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses may apply for college credit from South Dakota State University. Three (3) semester credits can be awarded in the topic area of General Engineering and is subject to the following conditions:

* The student’s high school must be certified by PLTW.
* The student has earned a grade of **85% or higher** on any PLTW courses
* The college credit exam must be taken and passed with a grade **of at least 70%.**
* The student has successfully completed all three courses in the sequence.

To apply for credit at Academic Evaluation and Assessment:

* Bring a copy of your PLTW transcript verifying the grades and exam score—documentation from the school. This will include a “Grade Verification” form that has been signed by the teacher.
* Complete the SDSU “Application for Placement Credit” form
* Pay a fee of [TBD].

When these steps have been completed, the equivalent course will be recorded on your transcript with an “EX” satisfactory grade for the appropriate number of credits.

Project Lead the Way Equivalency

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| **PLTW courses** | **Required Score** | **SDSU Course Equivalent** | **Credit** |
| Intro to Engineering Design | 85% for Course & 70% on PLTW Course Exam | GE121, GE122, GE123 | 3 credits |
| Principles of Engineering |
| Engineering Design & Development |

**South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**

**Project Lead The Way: Course Equivalency Credit**

Credit can be received in certain subjects through a variety of nationally recognized examinations including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP and, now, Project Lead The Way.

Once enrolled, students successfully completing Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses may apply for college credit from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Three (3) semester credits can be awarded in the topic area of General Engineering and is subject to the following conditions:

* The student’s high school must be certified by PLTW.
* The student has earned a grade of **85% or higher** on any PLTW courses
* The college credit exam must be taken and passed with a grade **of at least 70%.**
* The student has successfully completed all three courses in the sequence.

To apply for credit at Academic Evaluation and Assessment:

* Bring or send a copy of your PLTW transcript verifying the grades and exam score—documentation from the school to the Academic and Enrollment Services Office, Room 201, O’Harra Building. This must include a “Grade Verification” form that has been signed by the teacher.
* Pay a fee of [TBD].

When these steps have been completed, the equivalent course will be recorded on your transcript with an “EX” satisfactory grade for the appropriate number of credits.

Project Lead the Way Equivalency

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLTW courses** | **Required Score** | **SDSMT Course Equivalent** | **Credit** |
| Intro to Engineering Design | 85% for Course & 70% on PLTW Course Exam | elective credit  GE 100T | 3 credits |
| Principles of Engineering |
| Engineering Design & Development |